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AGC of America
THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA
Quality People. Quality Projects.



April 25, 2011

The Honorable Geoff Davis
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for H.R. 10, the Regulations from the Executive In Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act

Dear Representative Davis:

On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), I am writing to express our support for H.R. 10, the Regulations from the Executive In Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act. The REINS Act would require Congress to scrutinize major rules and affirmatively approve any new major rule before it could be imposed on our member companies.

AGC is the largest and oldest national construction trade association in the United States, representing more than 32,500 firms. AGC contractors are engaged in the construction of the nation's commercial buildings and industrial facilities, highway and public transportation infrastructure, water and wastewater systems, flood control and navigation structures, defense installations, multi-family housing, and more.

AGC member companies and their project owners must comply with a myriad of complex federal, state, and local legal and regulatory requirements throughout the construction process, including, but not limited to, zoning, procurement, environmental, labor, and health and safety. Meeting these requirements has become a huge and growing responsibility for contractors, and, in some cases, delaying, if not threatening, construction projects and increasing the cost of doing business. Recent studies have put the current regulatory compliance price tag on American businesses and individuals at more than \$1 trillion annually.

Since the REINS Act is limited to new "major rules" (i.e., rules having an impact on the economy of \$100 million or more), the REINS Act would impact only a small fraction of all rules promulgated each year, while covering those with the most significant impact on the economy. With executive agencies busy at work promulgating new regulations, Congress must retain ultimate control and accountability for how laws are implemented. The REINS Act would constrain the delegation of Congressional authority by double-checking every new major agency rule-making to ensure they accurately represent the statutory authority before they can be enforced.

Again, AGC supports H.R. 10, the REINS Act, and looks forward to working with you to enact this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey D. Shoaf', is written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey D. Shoaf
Senior Executive Director
Government Affairs